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09/762,759	02/09/2001	Peter Langheinrich	875-00	8552

7590

06/11/2003

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EXAMINER

ABRAMS, NEIL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 06/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/762759

Applicant(s)

Examiner

Group Art Unit

2839

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2-9-01 prelim amdt

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 9-15 is/are rejected.

☒ Claim(s) 7, 8 is/are objected to.

☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:

☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____

☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received

in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No. (s) _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

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Title should be more specific, mention electroplating.

Spec., pages 16, 17 should be canceled.

Claims 1-3, 6 and 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ^{WO (item AN)} PCT 46740 alone or in view of Hainsworth and Germany 29721 741.

PCT discloses a contact element 104 with contact areas (humps) at 62 (Figs 4, 8) for supplying current. The contacts appear to meet the $V/L/F$ equation, should this be at issue, it also appears obvious that they, being cylindrical as are applicants, fig. 2 contacts would satisfy the equation. The PCT contacts are not exposed. Omission of parts 60, 72, 68 that surround the contacts, would be an obvious change. Such omission of a part and its function should not serve as a basis for patentability. Such use of exposed contacts further taught by Hainsworth and Germany (as best understood). Obvious to similarly have PCT contacts exposed. This would save expense of parts now omitted.

Claims 2, 3, met by figs 9-12 PCT arrangement. For claim 6, note grooves (Fig. 11) between humps. Claims 9 shape produces no ~~st~~ated advantage over round shapes and is read as obvious variation. Claims 10-12 materials deemed obvious variations.

Claims 1-3, 6 and 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Germany 29721741 alone or in view of PCT 46740 and Hainsworth.

Note ^{WO} PCT 29931, equivalent to the German patent and cited in this case, which includes an English language abstract.

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The German patent includes contact element 34 with contact areas or humps 38, 40.

The Germany device appears to be for supplying current. Should this not be disclosed PCT 740 and Hainsworth are noted to show comparable devices that supplies current. It would have been obvious to so form the German clamp. This would enable electrodeposition to properly take place. Dependent claims are treated as discussed above.

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT, WO 46740 in view of Hainsworth, Germany 29721741 and Haase.

The patents are applied as discussed above. The PCT humps 62 are not in rows. Haase shows a clamp system with plural projection 15, 16 on an arm. It would have been obvious to use two humps ^{on each} PCT jaw element (fig. 11). This would enable higher current. The six humps would meet claims 4, 5 limitations.

Claims 7 and 8 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to N Abrams at telephone number (703) 308-1729.

N ABRAMS/PJ

06/09/03


NEIL ABRAMS
EXAMINER
ART UNIT 322